GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3568
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
Singh Shri Bhola;Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a long drawn process lies ahead for India to complete its entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India has sought fairly flexible multilateralism in its extended neighbourhood and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has signed a base document which is called the Memorandum of Obligations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely benefits for India after becoming a member of SCO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) The Memorandum of Obligations (MoO) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) establishes the process of SCO membership. India and SCO members signed the MoO in June 2016. The MoO envisages accession by India to 35 SCO documents/ agreements as per a timeline indicated in the MoO, which is expected to be completed by April 2017.

(b) India strives to be part of as many multilateral processes as beneficial and in the national interest.

(c) & (d) India signed the SCO MoO on 24 June 2016. India is expected to benefit from SCO membership given SCO objectives which include:

(i) Strengthening relations among member states;
(ii) Promoting cooperation in political affairs, economics and trade, scientific-technical, cultural, and educational spheres as well as in energy, transportation, tourism, and environmental protection;
(iii) Safeguarding regional peace, security, and stability; and
(iv) Creating a democratic, equitable international political and economic order.